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MEDIA NOTIFICATION

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The United States Supreme Court has granted the State's petition to review the case of death row inmate Gary Bradford Cone. In March, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals overruled the district court and vacated Cone's death sentence, finding that Cone had received ineffective assistance of counsel in the penalty phase of his trial. In so finding, the 6th Circuit rejected both the district court's and the State courts' findings that Cone had failed to demonstrate prejudice. Argument in the case is expected to be scheduled for March, 2002. Cone was convicted in 1982 for the Aug. 10, 1980 beating deaths of 93-year-old Shipley Todd and 79-year-old Cleopatra Todd. The double murder occurred while Cone was fleeing from a previous robbery and broke into the couple's home. He killed them when they refused to cooperate with him, striking each in the head multiple times. Cone later admitted killing the Todds, and his fingerprints and hair samples were found in their home.